

IN MEMORY

J. R. Orwig.
from the
Author.

22 OF

Gen'l WILLIAM MONTGOMERY,

Gen'l DANIEL MONTGOMERY,

and JOHN C. BOYD.

BY

A. F. RUSSEL.

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## PREFACE.

If any apology is needed for the publication of these biographical notices it is sufficient to say that they were prepared at the request of two brothers, descendants of the men herein commemorated. The two Montgomery's, William and Daniel, were the founders of Danville—the town having derived its name from the Christian name of Daniel (Dan.) Montgomery. As the history of our town is identified with the lives of these men it is presumed that these pages may perhaps interest others besides the Montgomery's and Boyd's and their descendants.

DANVILLE, PA.

A. F. R.



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## General William Montgomery.

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In writing a memorial of General William Montgomery it is to be regretted that our sources of information do not carry us back to his youth and early manhood. The only record we have of his early life is found, written in his own hand, upon one of the blank pages of an old family bible: "August 3rd, 1809.—By the goodness of divine Providence I have this day numbered seventy-three years, (not noticing the change of style) and it is but right that I should leave a record of something of God's goodness to me in so long a life. I was the third son of Alexander and Mary Montgomery, who both died, leaving me an orphan of ten or eleven years old; but by the restraining grace and goodness of God I was led up through the slippery paths of youth to manhood."

From other sources we learn that Alexander and Mary Montgomery left seven sons and one daughter. Of these children we know only that Daniel and Margaret migrated to Northumberland county at the same time with their brother William. As this narrative has to do with the latter only, it is unnecessary to conjecture why the intercourse and traditions of the family were not kept up.

William Montgomery was born August 3rd, 1736, in Londonderry township, Chester county, Pennsylvania. To him and his brother Daniel their father, Alexander Montgomery, devised his farm; they to pay to the other heirs their respective shares. The will was not probated, but there are on record in Chester county releases from all the other heirs of all their interests in the estate, to William Montgomery, he having purchased from his brother Daniel his half. These releases are dated some of them before and some after his removal to Northumberland county.

William Montgomery was a prominent man in his native county before the Revolutionary war.

His first appearance as a public man was as a member of the "Associators"\* of Chester county, and next as a delegate from Chester county in a convention "of the people of the Province of Pennsylvania called by the Philadelphia Committee" January 23rd, 1775.

This convention provided for a call of the convention again "if it appear to the committee of the city and Liberties that the situation of affairs render a Provincial convention necessary;" thus substantially taking charge of the Government.

His next appearance is—again as a delegate from Chester county

The "Associators" were an organized body of patriotic citizens mutually bound to each other to resist the "tyranny attempted to be established in the Province of Pennsylvania by the court of Great Britain."

—at a meeting of the Committees of the Province of Pennsylvania held in Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, June 18th, and continued till June 25th, 1776. He is now entitled "Colonel" Montgomery.

At this conference provision was made for holding a convention "for the express purpose of forming a new government in the Province, on the authority of the people only."

The convention passed all the necessary ordinances for the election of delegates to the convention for forming a State government, raising the quota, &c., &c.

The following are the resolutions passed June 20, 1776:

"Resolved, That every Associator of the Province shall be admitted to a vote for members of the convention, in the city or county in which he resides; provided such Associator be of the age of twenty-one years, and shall have lived one year in the Province immediately preceeding the election; and shall have contributed at any time before the passage of this resolve to the payment of either provincial or county tax, or shall have been rated toward the same."

"Resolved, that any person qualified by the laws of this province, to vote for representative in Assembly, shall be admitted to vote for members of the intended convention; provided he shall first take the following test, on oath or affirmation, if thereunto required by any of the judges or inspectors of the election, who are hereby impowered to administer the same.

"I———do declare that I do not hold myself bound to bear allegiance to George the Third, King of Great Britain, &c., and that I will not, by any means, directly or indirectly, oppose the establishment of a free government, by the convention now to be chosen; nor the measures adopted by the Congress, against the tyranny attempted to be established in these colonies by the Court of Great Britain."

These resolutions were agreed to without a dissenting voice.

It was further "resolved unanimously that any person qualified to vote for members of Assembly, by the laws of this Province, may be elected a member of convention, provided, that he shall have resided at least one year immediately preceding said election, in the city or county for which he shall be chosen, and shall, before he takes his seat in the convention take the following oath or affirmation, viz:

"I———do declare that I will not hold myself bound to bear allegiance to George the Third, King of Great Britain, &c., and that I will steadily and firmly, at all times promote the most effectual means, according to the best of my skill and knowledge, to oppose the tyrannical proceedings of the King and Parliament of Great Britain, against the American colonies; and to establish and support a government in this Province, on the authority of the people only, &c. That I will oppose any measure that shall or may in the least interfere with or obstruct the religious principles or practices of any of the good people of this Province, as heretofore enjoyed. Also,

"Resolved, That no person elected to serve as a member of conven-

tion shall take his seat or give his vote, until he shall have made and subscribed the following declaration :

"I———do profess faith in God the Father and in Jesus Christ his eternal Son, the true God, and in the Holy Spirit, one God blessed forever more ; and do acknowledge the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration."

Glorious men, these associators, who fear God and thus boldly express their faith.

June 23d, William Montgomery was appointed one of a "committee to devise ways and means for raising 4500 men and to enquire into all matters to fit them for taking the field."

The Province had at this time 1500 men in service which, with the 4500 above mentioned, made the quota of the Province required by the Congress of the United States.

In June 1776, Col. Montgomery's battalion of the 4th Chester county militia, numbering 450 men, were "serving their tour" in New Jersey and were, probably, engaged at the battle of Long Island in August 1776, inasmuch as several of his officers were in Fort Washington, at the time of the unfortunate capture of that post by the British in November following. Col. Montgomery's regiment was known as the "Flying Camp."

During the Colonel's absence in the field his place as a member of the convention was filled by his brother-in-law, Thomas Strawbridge, as a delegate from Chester county.

From this time forth Mr. Montgomery is identified with Northumberland county. In November, 1773, he purchased land there from J. Cummings. The patent for this land bears date December, 1773.

November 26, 1774, is the date of J. Simpson's deed to William Montgomery for "one hundred and eighty acres of land on Mahoning creek, North side of the East branch of the Susquehanna, called Karakaase." On this land was laid out the town of Danville.

In the fall of 1776 or early in 1777 Mr. Montgomery removed his family to Mahoning (now Danville) and commenced the improvement of his estate. October 8th, 1777, his youngest son, Alexander, was born here ; and the house in which he was born remains and is occupied to this day by his descendants.

The dangers generally of frontier life, and especially the constant apprehension of trouble with the Indians, and their frequent and murderous raids upon the settlements, made it necessary the next year to send his family to a place of safety.

As for himself he seems to have been singularly fearless of personal danger. In spite of the unsettled state of affairs incident to the progress of the war and the general distrust of the Indians, he confidently set about the erection of a mill, and while contemplating other large enterprises he manifested such force of character and such energy and public spirit that we are not surprised to find him among the best



known and most influential men in the State ; a man in whom all who knew him reposed the utmost confidence, and whose strong common sense and integrity of character, and his sterling piety withal, commended him as a safe counsellor and able leader in everything that had regard to the public welfare.

Attached to a memorial sent to the assembly at this time, asking "aid and protection against the British and Indians," signed by many of the inhabitants of the exposed regions, appear the names of William Montgomery and Thomas Strawbridge, his brother-in-law.

In October, 1779, Mr. Montgomery was elected a member of Assembly from Northumberland county, but did not take his seat till February 1st, 1780. From this date his name appears in the proceedings prominently as a member of many of the most important committees—among others on a special committee "to devise ways and means for the support of the army and keeping the ranks full &c." and on a committee to "adjust a plan proposed for the greater ease of the militia service," and another to "bring in an estimate of the salaries proper for the support of civil offices of the government."

On the 1st of March, 1780, the "Act for the gradual abolition of slavery," was passed, and William Montgomery is recorded as voting "yea," he being himself a slaveholder.

During all the session of this Assembly and that of the year 1781 his name is found in every recorded vote by "yeas" and "nays."

At the extra session convened in May, 1781, he was appointed one of a committee of eleven, to which committee was referred the Governor's message. On the 4th of June the committee recommended among other things, "the repeal of all laws making proper bills of credit a legal tender, and the penalties attached to them." September 4, 1781, the Assembly again met, Wm. Montgomery present.

At these sessions many of the most momentous and important questions were discussed and determined; amongst them the paper money question.

From Wm. Montgomery's last appearance in the Assembly in 1781 we have no record on his part of any further political and patriotic services until in November, 1784, he was elected by the Assembly a member of Congress and served in that body till February 7, 1785, when he resigned.

In 1785 Mr. Montgomery was appointed President Judge of the courts of Northumberland county, then embracing Luzerne, and in 1786 was in that capacity required by the executive council to enforce the laws in regard to the serious dispute in Wyoming Valley arising out of the conflicting Connecticut land commissioner's claims, (See Note A.) and he so managed the difficult and troublesome business as to secure the thanks of the government, as expressed in the following letter from Benjamin Franklin,\* President of the Executive Council:

\*The original letter of Dr. Franklin is preserved.



IN COUNCIL, PHILADELPHIA, May 27, 1786.

"SIR.—The Council have received your letters of the seventeenth and twentieth instant by Gen. Bull, containing the important intelligence of fresh disturbances at Wyoming, which will be taken into consideration. We are sensible of your attention to the public welfare manifested in these dispatches; and desire you would continue to send us what further information you may from time to time obtain of the proceedings in that part of the country; using the meanwhile what influence you have to quiet the minds of the unhappy settlers there, by assuring them that there is the best disposition in the government to treat them equitably and even with kindness, and to take them under its protection and to extend to them all the privileges of our free and happy constitution, on their demonstration by their peaceable and orderly behaviour that the sentiments expressed in their late petition to the General Assembly are sincere, and that they are truly disposed to become good citizens. We hope they will wisely pursue this conduct and thereby render all thought of taking compulsive measures unnecessary. I am, with much esteem, sir,

Your most humble servant,

B. FRANKLIN, President.

William Montgomery, Esquire,

"President of the Courts of Common Pleas, Quarter Sessions and Orphans' Court of the County of Northumberland."

In 1787 Mr. Montgomery was appointed a commissioner for executing the act of Assembly entitled an "act for ascertaining and confirming to certain persons called 'Connecticut claimants' the lands by them claimed in the county of Luzerne, &c."

In this capacity of special commissioner he exercised his power of persuasion, and, with great self-control, replied in courteous and calm language to some of the most vituperative attacks of the claimants; maintaining his own dignity and asserting the just claims of the commonwealth. These difficulties were finally settled by a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in favor of Pennsylvania, in a trial had at Trenton, N. J., in which James Wilson, a distinguished lawyer of Philadelphia, defended the rights and interests of Pennsylvania; and this threatening and troublesome controversy ceased.—December 11, 1784, Mr. Montgomery was appointed deputy Surveyor of Northumberland and Luzerne counties, though previously to this appointment he had been known as a reliable and faithful surveyor and had re-surveyed and fixed many tracts of lands for the owners. Following this appointment as Deputy Surveyor he took the earliest opportunity to resign his office of President Judge of the courts of Northumberland county. The next year, 1791, he cared to accept from Governor Mifflin the appointment as Justice of the peace for Northumberland county. This fact, taken in connection with the one just previously stated, namely, that of his voluntarily resigning the dignities

and honors and commanding influence of a superior position to assume the cares of a local and relatively inferior office is suggestive, and reveals a rare trait of character. The man of true moral greatness will be indifferent to the honors and emoluments of high office when his conscience indicates to him any position, high or low, it matters not, or any line of conduct in which he can render himself serviceable to his neighbors and helpful to them in the petty embarrassments and trials of life.

In the Fall of 1791 Mr. Montgomery was elected a Senator from Northumberland county in the Legislature of Pennsylvania under the new Constitution, and was present at the first meeting of that body held at Lancaster in December, 1791. Being a man of high standing and large experience he was appointed, Dec. 9th, Chairman of a committee "to arrange the business mentioned in the Governor's address, and report what business, in their opinion, will be proper for the Senate to originate." December 14th the committee made report; and the same day he was appointed chairman of a committee "to prepare and report a bill to regulate the fees of the several offices in this commonwealth." During the entire session he seems to have been the leading man in the matter of regulating the fees of all offices of the State, the courts and the counties.

In 1792 he was elected a member of the third Congress of the United States and served his term of two years. In 1792 General Montgomery built his mansion, situate at the corner of Mill and Bloom streets, in the now borough of Danville—but at that time at the cross-roads near his grist mill and saw mills—which mills have long since disappeared. The old log house adjoining this mansion was the first house erected in this county, and the new building, which was of stone, was for many years after its erection the finest mansion in this region.

Mr. Montgomery received the title of "General" by virtue of a commission from Gov. Mifflin, dated the 17th day of April, 1793—appointing him Major General of the Division composed of the Militia of the counties of Northampton, Northumberland and Luzerne—for the term of seven years. His commission as Major General must have been renewed; for, among his papers there is a return dated Dec. 3rd, 1805, of the Second Brigade, 9th Division Pennsylvania Militia, commanded by Brigadier General William Wilson, of North'd county, and directed to Major General William Montgomery. This return bears on it the names of many prominent men of this part of the State as officers of militia regiments and companies.

From the year 1794 to 1801 General Montgomery devoted himself to the duties of his offices of Justice of the Peace and Deputy Surveyor, and to his private affairs. In 1801 he was appointed by Governor McKean an Associate Judge of Northumberland county, which office he held until the division of the county in 1813, when, he being a resident of the new county of Columbia, his commission became void.

In 1808 Gen. William Montgomery was a Presidential elector—the vote on which in Northumberland county stood: William Montgomery, Republican, 2793, and for the Federal candidates, 220.

From this time until his death, in 1816, he held no public office, except that of Associate Judge. But he ever maintained his interest in the affairs and prosperity of the country.

General Montgomery was for many years greatly interested in the improvement in the breed of sheep and domestic manufactures, taking great pains to inform himself on these subjects; and in numerous communications in the "Republican Argus" published in Northumberland, gave the results of his inquiries and experiments.\*

He always took a deep interest in the cause of education, joining with many of the most distinguished men of the State to secure a charter for an institution of learning, of high grade, in Northumberland.

Some years before his death he laid out the lower part of Danville—that extending from Mill street to Chestnut street—and donated sixty lots toward the erection and maintenance of an Academy, to be under the supervision and control of the Mahoning Presbyterian church—one of his descendants always to be a trustee. The Academy so established has been kept open since its erection in 1819, and is still presided over by a scholarly and able instructor.

The following record in Mr. Montgomery's family bible explains itself:

August 3rd, 1809.

"By the goodness of Divine Providence, I have this day numbered seventy-three years, (not noticing the change of style) and it is but right that I should leave a record of something of God's goodness to me in so long a life. I was the third son of Alexander and Mary Montgomery, who both died leaving me an orphan of ten or eleven years old. But by the restraining grace and goodness of God I was led through the slippery paths of youth up to manhood. I early married Margaret Nivin; she was all that could be expected in a woman; she was pious, sensible and affectionate; she lived with me about 13 years and had issue, Mary, who died at 23 years of age; Alexander, who died in infancy; Margaret, who died in the same year with her sister; William, who is still alive and has a large family, is about 47 years old; John, who is about 2 years younger and has also a large family; Daniel, who is still two years younger than John and has a family; Alexander, who died about one year old.

"About 22 months after her decease I married Isabella Evans, a most distinguished and delightful woman, by whom I had issue, Robert, born in April, 1773; Hannah, born the 22nd of January, 1775; Alexander, born October 8th, 1777; and Margaret, born January the 8th, 1784. The three former are still living, but she died soon after her marriage with Thomas Woodside. Their mother was called away

\*I am indebted to Col. D. Taggart, of Northumberland, for the loan of a file of the "Republican Argus," from which many important facts have been gleaned for this memoir.

from me in August, 1791, and in April, 1793, I married a worthy and eminent woman, her maiden name was Boyd, and she was the widow of Col. Mathew Boyd, by whom she had issue, John, who died with the dysentery, aged about 23 years; also, Rebekah, who is married to Rev. John B. Patterson, lives happily and is raising a fine family. But I have had no issue by my present wife nor has any uneasiness arisen in consequence of it. Nor can it be said that any of my children have had stepmothers, being always treated with as much tenderness and respect as they could have expected from their own mothers. Another instance of my happiness and for which I ought to be very thankful is the untarnished morality of my children, and the peace and harmony that has always subsisted among them.

"Through all this long life I have been abundantly provided for, have enjoyed honor enough unsought by any other means than honestly endeavoring to do my duty to my God and my country—great health and much comfort, retaining my natural powers with little diminution till about five or six years past since when I feel sensibly the advances of age. But I hope that goodness and mercy which have followed me through life will not forsake me when gray hairs appear, but continue to conduct me down to death, after which through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ alone and the mercy of God our Saviour I hope to obtain eternal rest and happiness.

WM. MONTGOMERY.

"Note this year the woolen factory at Danville established under my care."

General Montgomery had taken great pains to get a woolen factory in operation and by his untiring energy made it a success. The whole property ultimately fell into his hands and he superintended it till his death.

The factory he bequeathed to his sons Daniel and Alexander. It finally became the sole property of Alexander who kept it up till about 1838 or 1839 and it was of great service and profit to the people of the neighborhood.

The list of "Regulations" which the old gentleman prepared for the management of the factory is preserved and it is an interesting relic.

William Montgomery, the eldest son of General Montgomery had removed to Tennessee many years before the above record was made, and died there leaving a large family. All his children remain in Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. Several of his sons received a part of their education in Danville under the care and guardianship of their grandfather.

John, the next son, died at his house near Danville leaving four sons and five daughters, all now dead, and their children living in Illinois.

Daniel, the third son, died in Danville, December 30, 1831. Of him a memoir will follow.

Robert, the fourth son, died on his farm in Madison township,



Columbia county in the year——. His wife, Louisa Montgomery survived him a few years and died in Youngstown, Ohio. They left one son and three daughters, one of whom has since died, all residents of Ohio.

Alexander, the youngest son, died in Danville in 1848—in the same room in which he was born. His widow, Mrs. Jane Montgomery, survived him 28 years, dying at the age of 92 years. He had four living daughters, two of whom yet survive; Mary E., widow of M. C. Grier, dec'd, and Hannah C., wife of A. F. Russel, both residents of Danville. Hannah, the daughter above named, married James Longhead.

They lived in Danville many years, enjoying the respect and esteem of friends and neighbors, and died leaving no children.

General Montgomery was always in advance of his neighbors. He was a model farmer, his crops were the largest, taxing his resources for storing and threshing them. To facilitate the threshing of wheat he built a large octagonal barn, which many persons yet living may remember, securing thereby an immense floor for threshing as well as large mow room. Here he placed a large heavy roller, full of cogs or pins, and so arranged the machine that by attaching a team of horses this roller would rapidly thresh out the wheat as it revolved around a circle of two hundred feet or more over a continuous layer of sheaves. This odd old barn stood at the S. W. corner of Bloom and Ferry streets and was taken down in 1834.

About the year 1808 General Montgomery and his son Robert had tried making iron in Bedford county, where the General owned a large body of land, but as it proved unprofitable they abandoned the undertaking.

Mr. Montgomery was the first man in this county who used, for fuel, anthracite coal, then called "stone coal". As early as 1813 or '14 he had a rough grate constructed by a blacksmith and set in his fireplace in his own sitting-room and thereafter the room was heated from a coal fire.

I shall conclude this brief sketch of the first settler and founder of Danville with the single remark that the subject of it was, through all his life of varied usefulness, a brave, stern, uncompromising Christian man. As he lived, so he died—trusting for salvation and the rewards of eternity alone in his Guide and Redeemer, Christ.



## General Daniel Montgomery.

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On the fifth day of November, 1768, the provincial authorities of Pennsylvania purchased the Indian title to that large district embraced in the present counties of Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Luzerne, Lackawana, Wayne, Wyoming, Susquehanna, Bradford, Sullivan, Lycoming, Union and Centre, all which was embraced in the county of Northumberland, erected in 1772. To this "new purchase" the immigration was so large that in four years after the purchase, the establishment of courts became a necessity, and Sunbury was fixed as the county seat—this place was then a small village which had grown up near Fort Augusta, a military post established many years before and maintained as a frontier defence.

The Susquehanna river was the only highway from the older settlements, and for several years most of the settlers built their habitations along the banks of the river and its two great branches. The town of Northumberland, by its favorable location in the forks of the Susquehanna, attracted residents and traders, and soon became an important village.

General William Montgomery who had settled at Mahoning—now Danville—and prepared a residence and built a mill, brought his wife and children to their new home in 1776 or '77. The following year, 1778, the Indians being incited by British emissaries, committed so many murders and depredations on the inhabitants of this wild region, as to occasion so much alarm and terror, that all who could get away, fled. Mr. Montgomery sent his wife and children back to Chester county, whence he had brought them but a year before, that they might be in a place of safety. They remained there until General Sullivan's expedition in 1779, had cleared the country of British and Indians as far north as Ithica, Newtown and Painted Post, in the neighborhood of Elmira.

As soon as safety was assured in 1780 the family returned to Mahoning.

At this time Daniel, the third son and the subject of this memorial, was about fifteen years old, and the two elder sons, seventeen and nineteen, respectively. During the years these children had spent in Chester county they enjoyed the advantages of association with pious, intelligent and cultivated people, and received the rudiments of a plain English education, and nearly all they ever acquired outside of their father's house. Their good manners, which characterized them in after life, were likely due in large degree, to their association with their father's friends at his old home.



These three sons having come with the rest of the family to Mahoning, took an active part in all the work and affairs of their father's mills, and were his most efficient assistants in all his enterprises until each of them set up for himself.

It was not long till the farm was cleared and the mill fully employed in grinding for the settlers, and then, their father found employment for himself and his sons in other ways, principally as surveyors and agents, to search out, resurvey and secure to the owners their lands—General Montgomery being at the time, deputy surveyor of Northumberland county.

The wilderness was but partially opened—roads there were none, worthy of the name. In the summer season all merchandise was, of necessity, brought up the river, in what were called "Durham boats", by the hardest kind of manual labor.\* In winter the rough roads which were impassible in summer were rendered smooth by the snow; the rivers and smaller streams were bridged by frost so that, for three or four months the sled could be drawn almost anywhere. During this season neighbors joined company and, with loads of wheat, or pork, or whiskey, and each with his wallet of provisions, a blanket for covering, a bag of oats and bundle of hay for provender for his horses, they traversed the defiles and mountains to Reading for a market. Here they bartered their loads for salt, iron, nails, groceries and Jamaica spirits. Few houses of entertainment were found on the way, and these hardy travelers sought shelter at whatever cabin might chance to be near at hand when night came on. The privilege of stretching himself on the floor with feet to the open fire, was paid for in the morning with a sixpence. Few of these pioneers through the snows of nearly a century ago could afford to pay for a warm meal, and many a trip was made from the Susquehanna to Reading on two or three shillings.

In course of time all this was changed. First came better roads, as the country became settled, then turnpike roads, and great bridges, built by chartered companies, the State usually assisting by large subscriptions to the stock.

In these new settlements men were mainly occupied in building cabins, clearing the lands, making roads, very rough and imperfect ones indeed, but such as were an absolute necessity; then saw mills and grist mills, and now by bartering lumber, a great staple in this region at the time, these pioneers secured such necessities as were imperative, and by and by as their farms were improved and extended they had produce for sale.

The first store in the region was established at Montgomery's mills (now Danville) by Daniel Montgomery, who became the merchant and factor for a large district. Under the stimulus which he imparted to business generally the country began to prosper. It was before 1790 that Mr. Montgomery opened his store, but the precise

\* Durham boats were like a double end canal boat but only about two feet deep, and were propelled up stream by men pushing them by long socket poles, or by sail when it was possible to use it.

date cannot be ascertained. He occupied a building on the lot whereon now stands the Montour House. His genial manners, kindly disposition, with remarkable business capacity brought him large custom and the good will of all his customers, and he soon became a popular and prosperous man.

November 27th, 1791, Daniel Montgomery was married to Miss Christiana Strawbridge. He was then twenty-six years old. The next year, 1792, he laid out the town of Danville—the part east of Mill street to church street, and from the river to the canal—it was ten years after this that his father laid out that part of the town west of Mill street. The name Danville was probably bestowed on the place out of compliment to Daniel Montgomery by the partiality of his customers, for long before this time it had been the centre of a large trade—drawn hither by his father's mill, the Ferry—established by Jacob Gearhart, of Rush township—and his store, from which all the settlers within a wide circle drew their supplies.

From this time Daniel Montgomery was the most prominent young man in this region.

In 1800 he was elected a member of the Legislature from Northumberland county, and henceforth took his father's place as a leader in all the public enterprises and politics of the county. His acquaintance was extensive, including the leading men of the State, and he was recognized as a man of great influence in all affairs in which he took a part and in shaping and guiding public opinion. In every important enterprise he was naturally singled out and looked up to as a leader and in his hands everything prospered.

He became a large landholder and his resources of wealth were unusually great and varied.

There are no means of determining how his activities were employed for several years after he entered into the mercantile business, but it is to be presumed that he devoted his time and abilities steadily to his business affairs.

In 1805 he was Lieutenant Colonel commanding the 81st Regiment Pennsylvania Militia—in those days an office of considerable distinction—and with him his officers were, 1st Major, John Montgomery; 2nd Major, Alexander Dickson; Captains Thomas Taylor, William Clark, George Maus, James Montgomery, Thomas Moorhead, Gurshom Biddle, Alexander Irving, John Falls, Marshall Girton and John Allen.

Daniel Montgomery was appointed Major General of the Ninth Division, composed of the Militia of the counties of Northumberland and Luzerne by Governor Simon Snyder, July 27th, 1809, and his commission was renewed July 4th, 1814, for the Eighth Division, composed of the militia of the counties of Northumberland, Union, Columbia, Luzerne, Susquehanna and Wayne.

Mr. Montgomery's spirit and enterprise were further manifested by his connection with the projection and construction of that great public road, the "Centre Turnpike," extending from Reading to the

Susquehanna river opposite Northumberland. The company that built this road was organized in 1808, and Mr. Montgomery was elected one of the managers, and took a most active part in its location and construction—his position requiring more labor and patient effort to secure the successful completion of the work than was spent on the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad in these days of later wonder. When the Centre Turnpike was referred to by the newspapers of that day as being “built with greater rapidity than any in the State,” it is large praise to those who had it in charge.

He was also a stockholder in the great bridge over the Susquehanna at Northumberland.

Some years later—1814-1815—a short turnpike road from Danville to Bear Gap, connecting there with the Centre Turnpike was built, largely through his zeal and efforts. These works were, in their day, important projects and beneficent public improvements, as in our day are any great lines of Railroads. The managers and promoters of these early roads were the foremost men of the State, and the great works they accomplished remain their monuments.

The war in Europe at this time led to the perpetration, by the belligerents on the high seas, of acts of violence and wrong upon neutrals so gross as to provoke retaliatory measures on the part of the United States. First, to the closing of our ports and harbors against British war vessels; non intercourse with Great Britain; embargo, in the end, war. The embargo crippled our commerce and threatened ruin to all our shipping interests; but it stimulated domestic manufactures all over the country. Here in this remote settlement it met with enthusiastic advocates and promoters, who devoted time, energy, talents and capital to the establishment of a woolen factory at Danville, “when the farmers might have their own wool manufactured into cloths for their own use in their own factory, by improved machinery and of superior quality.”

Daniel Montgomery was one of the many who joined his father in the establishment of the factory, and was made its treasurer. He never lost his interest in these works, and wore in his own clothing the cloth made in this factory as long as he lived. The establishment was put into successful operation in the spring of 1809, and was of inestimable service to this section of the State.

In 1807 Mr. Montgomery was elected to Congress, in which he served one term to the satisfaction of his constituents, being identified with and a leader in the great Republican or Democratic party of that day—lending all his influence to the support of the government against the unwarrantable and aggravating assumptions of England and France. He declined a re-election in 1809.

In the division of Northumberland county and the creation of Columbia and Union counties he was one of the leading spirits, sparing neither time nor labor to secure the object which was accomplished in 1813. A commission appointed by Governor Snyder located the county seat of Columbia county at Danville. As the two Montgom-



erys, father and son, were prominent in securing the establishment of the new county, so were they the principle contributors toward the erection of the county buildings—William Montgomery conveying to the county the lots on which the court house was built and Daniel Montgomery the lots on which the jail was built, and with them they made large donations in money for the buildings. These lots are yet occupied by the county buildings of Montour county.

During all these twenty-five years, up till 1815, Daniel Montgomery was actively engaged in mercantile business—but having purchased a farm (the one where now stands the State Hospital for the Insane) and erected for himself a fine mansion, he gave up his store and retired from the mercantile business, at the age of fifty years—and devoted himself to the management of his estates.

After the war of 1812 there was a period of wild speculation, and a great ery was raised for more money; every village wanted a bank, under the delusion that the banks could make as much money as was wanted. A great number of banks were chartered by the legislature; the bills were promptly vetoed by that distinguished Governor, Simon Snyder, and as promptly re-passed by the Legislature over the veto. The banks being put into operation they made money abundant. Under this stimulus of abundant money every kind of speculation became rampant, all kind of property acquired an artificial and unreal value. People borrowed money to buy bank stock, to buy land, to build houses, to increase their comforts and conveniences, and everybody thought himself rich. But pay day soon came round and then followed broken banks, broken merchants, ruined farmers, and universal bankruptcy and distress. Wheat, the staple of the country, fell from two dollars a bushel to forty cents; rye sold for twenty cents per bushel, corn had no price; horses, cattle and hogs had no market; of money there was none in circulation worthy of the name; what little circulation there was consisted mainly of shimplasters, and the people, who were themselves answerable for the ruin, being the sufferers, have not to this day ceased to decry banks, having had such a surfeit of paper money as to utterly disgust them with it.

The hard times brought about continued from 1817-18 to 1825 with little abatement. During this period many a man was enabled to save his property through the benevolence and direct assistance of General Montgomery. Fortunately he had the command of his resources and credit and used them generously and efficiently. It is remarkable that in all these troubles he met with small loss by his kindness and generosity, and it became proverbial that "everybody paid Daniel Montgomery."

In 1823 he was solicited to become a candidate for the office of Governor of the State, by leading men of the Democratic party, but declined.

General Montgomery was a promoter and member of the convention held in Harrisburg in 1824, to consider the condition and wants

of domestic manufactures. From this convention there went out an influence that resulted in the passage of the Tariff of 1828 which gave a great impetus to home production. From that time may be dated the beginning of our great prosperity.

In 1826 Daniel Montgomery, Thomas Enochs, John Phillips, Charles Mowery and George M. Dallas, were appointed Canal Commissioners. Mr. Montgomery was elected President of the Board and held the office until a new Board was organized. During his term of office the great internal improvements of the state were inaugurated and the works well advanced toward completion. Whilst in this position the North Branch canal was located—and although he insisted on the location being made on a higher level than that which was ultimately adopted his sagacity and better knowledge of the danger of floods have been abundantly manifested every year since its completion. But it was objected by the citizens of Danville that if his advice was heeded it would take the canal a half mile away from the village, and build a new centre of trade on the land of his brother Alexander Montgomery. The insinuation of mercenary motive in his advice closed his lips, and the present location was decided on according to the desire of the citizens.

He was a principle stockholder in and President of the Danville Bridge Company, and under his management the bridge was completed about 1829.

He was the originator of the project of the Danville and Pottsville Railroad, and largely instrumental in securing a charter—himself being one of the commissioners to carry it into effect. In 1828 the books were opened, stock subscribed, and he was elected President of the company. By his untiring energy and zeal the work was promptly commenced and vigorously prosecuted till the time of his death, which occurred December 30th, 1831.

Mr. Stephen Girard, a principle stockholder and promoter of the enterprise, died about the same time.

The work, however, was completed from Girardville to Pottsville, and a branch built from Shamokin to Sunbury, (this last by aid of the State credit) and put into successful operation.

General Montgomery was well known throughout the State for his public spirit and enterprise, and his counsel was sought and his judgment accorded the most respectful consideration by all who, like him, were intent on promoting the public good.

Daniel Montgomery, like his father, was a noted farmer. He raised the finest crops produced in the neighborhood, and, like his father, availed himself of the best helps to cleanse his wheat. It was he who put up the first thrashing machine of the modern type, and with it thrashed his wheat. The successful operation of the machine brought many farmers to witness the marvel which would thrash as much grain in a day as could be tramped out by the horses in a week. This machine was rude, compared with the present separators which

with the same power will do as much in a day as it could do in a week, but it was equally an advance over the roller and the treading out with oxen of former days.

About 1824 many artesian wells were sunk in adjoining counties and General Montgomery finding his well sometimes dry, set to work to secure a certain supply, and after sinking the bore over 400 feet, at great expense, and finding a sure supply of water in the old well, and finding also that the water would not rise to the surface, stopped the work. The well has never since gone dry.

General Daniel Montgomery when a young man was noted for his horsemanship and was very fond of the chase. He kept a fine English hunter and a pack of fox hounds, and he and his brother-in-law, Thomas Woodside, who was equally well mounted and a bold rider, had many an exciting ride over the hills in the pursuit of foxes. This was the grand recreation of those days and the hardy young men trained from their youth to such sports enjoyed it hugely. Many anecdotes used to be current in the neighborhood, of these young men and their daring rides.

General Montgomery was a man of fine appearance and most genial manners—polite and affable to all, never passing the most insignificant or unworthy without a kindly greeting and a good word. No name brings up in the minds of his surviving contemporaries so much delight and satisfaction. Those who were children in his day remember him and his great kindness to them with the utmost affection.

He was a man of eminent piety and was an Elder in the Mahoning Presbyterian church from October, 1812, when he was ordained to that office, till his death. As an office bearer in the church he always exercised a commanding and beneficent influence in all its temporal and spiritual affairs. He was a large contributor toward the support of the church and to all the agencies for disseminating the gospel. His pure life and cheerful, happy disposition were such that all who knew him loved and revered him. There is a fragrance about the memory of such a man which will long linger among the people where he lived.

The death of General Montgomery was felt to be a great public loss, and brought sorrow to many hearts outside of his own immediate family.

The following obituary appeared in the DANVILLE INTELLIGENCER of January 6th, 1832:

"Died, at his residence, near Danville, on Friday, 30th of December, 1831, in the 66th year of his age, General Daniel Montgomery.

"He was the third son of General William Montgomery, one of the early settlers of this part of Pennsylvania. Having received a good mathematical education he acted for some years as assistant to his father, who was the Deputy surveyor of this district, and thus early acquired those habits of activity and industry, and that accurate local knowledge of the country—its situation and capabilities of improvement that afterwards enabled him to form so many judicious plans for the public benefit. He also engaged in the mercantile business, and



was enabled by his activity and energy to acquire not only competency but wealth, and also the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. In 1800 he was elected to represent the county of Northumberland in the State Legislature, and sometime after was chosen a member of Congress from this district. And although enjoying a well merited popularity, founded on his acknowledged talents and patriotism, which might have justified him aiming at the highest honors, he declined to be a candidate for re-election, preferring the peaceful enjoyment of private life to the bustle and turmoil of political promotion; but while he sought the retirement of domestic life his mind was ever engaged in forming schemes for the public benefit, and his industry in their execution was ever unwearied. He commenced his career in our county when it was as yet almost a wilderness and scarce forsaken by the wandering savage, he leaves it rich, populous and happy. He was among the first who planned the execution and explored the route of the great Centre turnpike which connects the valleys of the Susquehanna with the metropolis of our State—a work, which, when we take into view the time and the difficulties of its execution, is a noble monument of the enterprise and public spirit of its authors.

“When our State had come to the resolution of pursuing this grand and extensive scheme of public improvement, General Montgomery was selected by the Governor as one of those commissioners to whom the high and important trust was committed of expending the immense sums appropriated for the purpose. In 1828 he was chosen President of the board of canal commissioners, which situation he filled with his usual zeal and intelligence till the board was re-organized under the new act.

“It was to his zeal and industry in a great measure that we owe the Danville and Pottsville Railroad, which is now in the course of construction, and which when finished will be of more important benefit to this region of country than any other public improvement. It was he who first organized the scheme, discussed the practicability, obtained an act of incorporation, and awakened the attention of the public to its importance. As President of the company he was engaged in the zealous prosecution of this great object of public utility when attacked by the disease which has taken him from us. His death is indeed a public loss.

“He possessed strong natural powers of mind, a clear, sound discriminating judgment, a practical knowledge of men and things, and a peculiar tact for persuasion, that enabled him to exercise an uncommon influence over the minds and actions of others. His manners were plain, attractive and unassuming, blending amenity with republican simplicity. In all the relations of life he was amiable and beloved. A kind and affectionate husband and parent, a friend to the distressed, to the widow, to the orphan, to the poor. None who needed assistance and deserved it ever sought it of him in vain.

“But there is still another view of his character in which he was



worthy of all imitation—he was a Christian—an humble follower of Christ, ‘holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience,’ ‘rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.’

“As in his life he was ‘blameless’ and as an officer in the church an example to all, so also in his death did he enjoy the ‘strong consolation of those who have fled for refuge to lay hold on the hope that is set before them,’ and was enabled to say, ‘I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep what I have committed to him till that day.’

“While therefore his family, his friends, the poor, the church, and all his fellow-citizens have to deplore his loss, let them weep not for him but for themselves, for to him to die is gain.” G.

“At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Danville and Pottsville Railroad Company held at the office of the company, in Philadelphia, on the 7th inst., the following resolution was adopted:

“RESOLVED, That this board entertain the most lively sense of the loss they have sustained in the death of their late President, General Daniel Montgomery, and that this board feel it to be their duty to express the great obligations which the stockholders of the company and the public at large are under to him, for the great zeal, industry and intelligence with which he, from an early period to the time of his death, advocated and promoted the prosecution of this important improvement in which we are engaged.”

Daniel Montgomery, son of William Montgomery, of Danville, Columbia county, (now Montour) was born in Londonderry township, Chester county, Pa., October 30th, A. D. 1765. Died December 30th, 1831. He was married to Christiana Strawbridge, November 27th, 1791.

Their children were:

Margaret, born October 18, 1792; died April 1st, 1845, unmarried.

Isabella, born August 1st, 1794; died Oct. 11, 1813, unmarried.

Mary, born July 26th, 1796; died September 2nd, 1797.

Thomas, born July 19, 1798; died February 22nd, 1800.

Hannah, born October 16th, 1800; married to John C. Boyd May 18th, 1820.

William, born January 11th, 1803; died January 23rd, 1873; aged 70, unmarried.

Polly, born February 6th, 1805; married to Dr. Wm. H. Magill May 1st, 1828; still living. Has two sons and three daughters.

Christiana, born March 1st 1809; died May 26th, 1836, unmarried.

Daniel Strawbridge, born July 2nd 1811; died March 26th, 1839, leaving one daughter, since deceased.

## JOHN C. BOYD.

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Amongst the throng of immigrants which began to flow into the Province of Pennsylvania in the beginning of the second quarter of the last century, peopling large sections almost exclusively with earnest Scotch-Irish protestants, came two young men, William Boyd and Thomas Boyd, from Armagh, Ireland—and with them they brought two unmarried sisters, arriving in the year 1732.

It is with the descendants of William Boyd that this memorial has specially to do ; but it seems proper to give some account of Thomas Boyd and his descendants, so far as is known, and also of his sisters. It may be proper also to state that this family left one married sister in Ireland, who with her husband afterward emigrated to Philadelphia.

Thomas Boyd settled in the forks of Delaware, but afterward removed to Philadelphia, where he died in the year 1782, leaving four sons and one daughter. Major Alexander Boyd the oldest son, James, Thomas and Andrew, all officers in the Revolutionary army serving through the war.

Some time after the war James and Thomas settled in Kittanning—of their families nothing is now known. The other children remained in Philadelphia and died there. The family is now almost extinct.

Of the two unmarried sisters of the brothers, Thomas and William before mentioned, one married a Mr. Dobbins and the other a Mr. Curry, all of Philadelphia ; nothing further is known of them.

William Boyd settled near the Half-way house, in New Garden township, Chester county.

In the following year, March 26th, 1783, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace under King George, which office he held during life. He also held other offices ; was a member of the Provincial council—his name appearing on the records for the last time in 1761. He was also a prominent member and officer in the Presbyterian church at Faggs manor, Chester county.

As a Justice of the Peace he was careful to promote a spirit of peace and harmony, and thus prevented much ill feeling and litigation amongst his neighbors and friends.

In after life he moved to Oxford, where he died in the year 1767, and his wife died eleven days after her husband. Both are buried in the grave yard at Faggs manor.

It was said by his sons that when a member of Council he attended the sessions in Philadelphia, leaving his home in New Garden at two o'clock of a Monday morning, taking with him on horseback one or both his sons, then little boys. They would reach the ferry at Schuylkill before noon, when he would cross immediately so as to be in time for the opening of the session; committing to his boys the horse to be fed and then taken home the same day. They carried their own provision, and provender for the horse. The following Saturday the two boys would be at the ferry again awaiting their father; thus they continued to do during the sessions, which lasted about six weeks. The compensation for this service as councillor was one dollar and thirty-three cents a day. How different from these times when ten dollars per day is considered inadequate for like services.

William Boyd left three sons, James, John and William, and three daughters, Jane, Mary and Hannah.

As this memorial has very little to say of any of these children except John we shall speak as briefly as possible of the others.

William Boyd, the youngest son went into the marine service early in the Revolutionary war, was soon made a Captain and was afterwards taken prisoner and carried to England, and being exchanged, with health entirely broken, he died the day after his delivery on Long Island. His record is that of a distinguished officer.

Jane, the eldest daughter, married Daniel Cochran.

Mary married George Boyd, brother to Matthew Boyd.

Hannah married Matthew Boyd, by whom she had three children, to wit: Jane, Rebecca and John; of these children, Jane never married. Rebecca married Rev. John B. Patterson, the first pastor of Mahoning Presbyterian church, and left nine children. John died unmarried at the age of twenty-three years.

Matthew Boyd was killed by a fall from his horse. The widow afterwards married General William Montgomery. James Boyd, the oldest son of William Boyd, was seventeen years of age when his father died. He soon took a prominent position among the patriots of the Revolution, serving as a representative from Chester county in the legislative assembly during the war, and his name is frequently found on important committees, and always in the yeas and nays, showing his faithful attention to his duties. He was afterwards a member of the convention which formed the Constitution of the State of Pennsylvania—and served in the Legislature several years—was an Associate Judge of Chester county twenty-seven years, and forty years a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church of Faggs manor.

The most fitting close of this notice is the inscription on the tomb stone erected to his memory over his grave in Faggs manor burying ground

In memory of  
James Boyd, Esquire,  
who departed this life  
August 10th, 1821,  
Aged 73 years.

"He was a member of convention in framing the present Constitution and for several years a Representative in the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

"For 27 years an Associate Judge in Chester county and for 40 years a Ruling Elder in the congregation of Faggs manor.

"He was a sincere friend, an honest man and a devoted Christian."

On the same stone is this inscription also :

"In memory of  
Mary Boyd—Relict of James Boyd—  
who departed this life July 22nd, 1822,  
aged 76 years.

"Hers were the virtues mild, the softer charities, connubial love, maternal tenderness, friendship sincere, and piety unfeigned."

John Boyd, the second son of William Boyd above named, served an apprenticeship to the tanner's trade with Mr. Thomas Strawberry, of Chester county; and on the breaking out of the Revolutionary war entered the service and continued in the army seven years, leaving it in 1782 having received an honorable discharge. He returned home with nothing left but his horse and equipments.

On the 18th of December, 1782, he married Mary Cowen, third daughter of James Cowan of Octorara, Chester county.

Mr. Boyd immediately established himself in a tannery in West Fallow Field township, Chester county, near Cochranville, and his industry, integrity and high character soon brought him prosperity.

He was appointed by the Governor of the State Brigadier General, 1st Brigade, Third Division, Pennsylvania Militia. He served many years as a representative from Chester county in the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church of Faggs manor for twenty years.

John Boyd and Mary Cowen his wife, had seven children; Jane, Joseph, William, James, John C., Mary and Hannab Eliza; all of whom were carefully trained and educated as well as could be with the limited means and opportunity at the command of their parents, who carefully inculcated in their children lessons of piety, integrity and honor, which being well learned are the sure guarantee of a useful and honored life.

Jane, the oldest daughter, married Alexander Montgomery, of Danville, Pa., a son of General Wm. Montgomery. She had four daughters, two of whom survive, named Mary E., widow of M. C. Grier, and Hannah C., wife of A. F. Russel. Mrs. Montgomery died March 8th, 1876, aged 92 years.

Joseph Boyd, William Boyd and James Boyd were brought up by their father in the tannery, and John C. Boyd, the youngest son, as a farmer. The two oldest, Joseph and William, established themselves in a tannery in Lancaster county but soon abandoned it. Joseph went to Philadelphia and opened a broker's office, and when John C. quit the farm his brother took him into his office as clerk, and subsequently as his principal traveling agent and collector.



Joseph, the oldest son, married Margaret Steel, daughter of William Steel, Esq., of Chestnut Level, Lancaster county. His wife died leaving two sons and one daughter. Then oldest son, John, died in Philadelphia, leaving a wife and several children.

William S., the second son, died unmarried.

Eliza, the daughter, married V. B. Palmer, Esq.; both are now dead. They left four daughters, all married and living in Philadelphia.

William, the second son, married Eliza Steel, daughter of William Steel, Esq., of Lancaster county. Both are dead, leaving four sons and three daughters, to wit: John J., Jasper W., William S. and Joseph C., Elizabeth, Mary and Lydia Jane. Of these John J. died in Havre de Grace, in the year——; Jasper W. is married and living in Iowa; Joseph C., also married, lives in San Francisco, Cal.; William S. is married and living in Scranton, Pa. Elizabeth married Dr. B. R. Gearhart, who died many years ago leaving six sons, all men of standing and character in Danville, Pa.; Mary married Mr. Washington Chew; both died long since, leaving four children.

Lydia Jane, the youngest daughter, married the Rev. J. C. Riale, now living in Nebraska, and has three children.

James, the third son of John and Mary Cowen Boyd, died unmarried.

Mary, the second daughter, married David Whitehill, both dead, leaving no children.

Hannah Eliza, living and unmarried.

John C. Boyd, the youngest son, married Hannah Montgomery, daughter of General Daniel Montgomery, of Danville, Pa., May 18th, 1820.

Mr. Boyd came to Danville shortly after his marriage and opened a store in the house formerly occupied by his father-in-law, and continued in the business till about 1824 when he sold out and removed to the "Boyd Farm" two miles above Danville, on the south side of the Susquehanna—which General Montgomery gave to his daughter as a marriage portion. Here Mr. Boyd set to work with great energy, built a grist mill and his mansion house, and bought adjoining lands, until his farm contained over nine hundred acres, nearly all of which could be overlooked from his door, and the greater part of which was under cultivation. It was a model farm in its cultivation, productiveness and beauty. On this charming spot his children were born and brought up. What wonder then that to this homestead the sons return with a gladness only equalled by the happiness of their childhood in this Eden of their delights.

But Mr. Boyd was too full of vigor and enterprise to be confined to the cultivation of his estate, and eagerly joined his father-in-law in public enterprises for the benefit of the country, giving to whatever he undertook to promote, an untiring industry and an energy and purpose which could not admit of failure.

One of the first projects which claimed his attention was the making of the Danville and Pottsville Railroad, and in this he had the

support and encouragement of his father-in-law—who was the originator of the scheme—and all the leading business men of this section.

The Schuylkill canal was completed and in successful operation, coal mines were being opened up, villages and cities laid out, people were flocking to Pottsville in large numbers, thus creating a demand for large quantities of the productions of the Susquehanna region. The old Centre turnpike was the only road by which the “coal region” could be reached, and the need of cheaper transportation was felt by all.

To demonstrate the feasibility of transporting produce on even a wooden railroad track by horse power Mr. Boyd laid down a short track of hewn timber, pinning on the outside of the flat timber a scantling guard, placed upon this track a wagon and loaded it with stones, and in the presence of a large company hitched a horse to the end of the pole, and the single horse moved off a load which six horses would not have been able to haul on the turnpike road. This little rude experiment led to an application to the Legislature for a charter for the Danville and Pottsville Railroad company.

An act was passed on the 8th of April, 1826, to incorporate the company and among the commissioners named to carry it into effect are the names of Daniel Montgomery and John C. Boyd, who were the fathers of the enterprise.

On the 14th of April, 1828, a needed supplement to the charter was passed by the Legislature and the books were opened by the commissioners, and the work begun the same year. After the usual vicissitudes of railroad companies, when the work was about half done Mr. Montgomery the president of the company died, and about the same time Mr. Stephen Girard, one of the promoters of the enterprise, also died. That part of the road from Girardville to Pottsville was completed and by that time the funds were exhausted and the work was discontinued. After exhausting every means to induce the Philadelphians to help them through, and borrowing what money they could with the assistance of the State the Sunbury branch was completed to Shamokin, and that was the end for many years; and the interests of the Susquehanna were left to languish. Wheat and other farm products and lumber, all greatly needed in Pottsville, had to be floated down the river to a market, as of old, or carted over the old turnpike.

The want of consideration which Philadelphia had shown for the interests of this section led to a combined effort of the leading business men of the whole region, from Wilkesbarre to Bellefonte to secure the charter for a company for the construction of a canal, from Columbia, the terminus of the Pennsylvania canal to Havre-de-Grace, Md., at the head of Chesapeake bay, resulting in the passage of an Act of the Legislature April 15, 1835, chartering the “Susquehanna Canal company.” John C. Boyd was one of the commissioners to carry the charter into effect, and became the leading spirit in conducting this great work to completion. For this purpose he spent his time and means, and lavished an amount of energy rarely equaled.

About the time of the completion of the canal the iron business, so active from 1838 to 1841, attracted Mr Boyd's attention, and being possessed of a tract of land constituting a part of the borough of Shamokin, having on it a vast body of coal, he conceived the idea of erecting a furnace at that place and carrying the iron ore or a part of it to the coal. To accomplish this he organized a company and erected the furnace, furnishing a large share of the capital himself, and giving to the work the benefit of his untiring energy, mature judgment and vast business capacity. The furnace was completed and successfully put in blast. The stockholders and directors met at Shamokin and rejoiced over the successful completion of the work. The same night it was burned down.

He immediately set to work to rebuild the furnace, which he succeeded in doing mainly out of his own resources; not however until the iron interests had declined was the furnace again put in blast. It languished and after several changes of owners and les-sees it went out, and stands to-day a monument of wasted capital.

This seemed to be the finishing stroke to his great efforts to recover himself. But he soon rallied again, and before his death had nearly wiped out every trace of misfortune.

As is too often the case in striving for the good and prosperity of the public, Mr. Boyd made shipwreck of his own fortune. It would be useless to detail the struggles he had the next few years; how men whom he had trusted and advanced to places of honor and responsibility turned on their benefactor and endeavored to cast down and destroy him who had lifted them up.

For nearly nine years he fought the fight, and had come to a point when he could see clearly speedy delivery from all his embarrassments within a very short period, when he was attacked by dysentery and died August 18, A. D. 1849, at the age of fifty-six years—in the very maturity of his most useful and active life.

Mr. Boyd was a man of irreproachable life and the most agreeable manners—dignified and polite. He had a thorough knowledge of men, and rarely was wrong in his estimate of them. In all his intercourse with those with whom he had to do he was always the same courteous and considerate gentlemen, never giving offence by thoughtless or inconsiderate words or actions. He had the confidence and respect of all his neighbors and friends. The memory of his great politeness and enterprise is as fresh to day in the minds of his friends and neighbors as if it were but yesterday.

A most competent and diligent manager of all his affairs he rarely failed to secure the best service and attain the best results in his undertakings.

In his family he was a loving, loved and honored husband and father, whose memory is cherished by his children and all who were of his household.

John C. Boyd and Hannah Montgomery, his wife, left seven children.



Mary L. Boyd married to William Neal of Bloomsburg. They have two children.

D. Montgomery Boyd married Miss Bockius, of Germantown, Pa., who died having no children. He afterward married Miss Coterell, of Columbia, Pa. They have one child. Residence, Havre de Grace, Md.

H. Eliza Boyd died unmarried.

James Boyd married Miss Lonisa, daughter of the late eminent Presbyterian divine, Rev. J. W. Yeomans, D. D., of Danville, Pa. They have three children. Residence, Harrisburg, Pa.

J. Alexander Boyd married Miss Titus, of Easton, Pa., who died several years ago leaving one child, since deceased. He again married, his present wife being a sister of the former. Residence, Philadelphia, Pa.

Christiana J. Boyd married to Col. William M. McClure. They have one child. Residence, Columbia, Pa.

Joseph C. Boyd married Miss Anna, daughter of William K. Butler, of Philadelphia. Residence, Danville, Pa.

## APPENDIX.

It has been suggested to me, as the editor of this biographical sketch, that it might be desirable to preserve a copy, possibly for future reference, of this special commission to examine and decide upon the "Connecticut Claims." The original document bearing the curious star-shaped and antiquated seal of the State is nearly in tatters—a literal copy is herewith appended:

SEAL. } "In the name and by the authority of the Framers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.  
 } "The Supreme Executive Council, of the said Commonwealth.

"To William Montgomery, Esq: We, reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Prudence, Integrity and abilities, have appointed you, the said William Montgomery, our Commissioner for executing the act of Assembly, entitled 'An act for ascertaining and confirming to certain persons called Connecticut Claimants, the lands by them claimed in the county of Luzerne, &c.

"You are therefore by these Presents commissioned to have and to hold the said Office of Commissioner with all the Rights, Powers and Emoluments to the said Office belonging, or by Law in any wise appertaining, until this commission shall be legally revoked.

"Given in Council, under the Hand of The Honorable Charles Biddle, Esquire, Vice President, and the Seal of the State, at Philadelphia, this twenty-third day of July, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven.

"Attest, JOHN ARMSTRONG, Jr., Sec'y.

"On the 22nd day of August, 1877, Before the subscriber, member of the Supreme Executive Council of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Appeared William Montgomery, Esq., and took the Oath prescribed by the above recited act of Assembly in due form of Law, and the Oath of Allegiance as prescribed by the Constitution.

NATHAN DENISON.

The following subscription papers in General William Montgomery's hand, entitled "Preaching subscription" may be of interest. His zeal for the maintenance of the ordinances of religion was conspicuous throughout his later life.

"We, the subscribers, promise to pay the several sums annexed to our names into the hands of such person as shall be named by a majority of us to receive and collect the same, to be set apart as a fund for the encouragement and promoting the preaching of the Gospel among us at the settlement of Mahoning:

"Done this twenty-fourth day of November, 1784."

|                         | £  | s | d |                          | £ | s  | d |
|-------------------------|----|---|---|--------------------------|---|----|---|
| Jno. Emmitt.....        |    | 7 | 6 | Wm. Montgomery.....      | 3 | 0  | 0 |
| Jas. Emmitt.....        |    | 7 | 6 | John Ewart.....          | 1 | 0  | 0 |
| Charlie McClahan.....   |    | 7 | 6 | John Black.....          | 1 | 0  | 0 |
| David Subingall.....    | 1  | 0 | 0 | Daniel Kelly.....        |   | 15 | 0 |
| Peter Blew.....         |    | 7 | 6 | Peter Rambo.....         | 1 | 0  | 0 |
| Jno. Wilson.....        |    | 7 | 6 | John Emmet.....          |   | 15 | 0 |
| Jos. Barry.....         |    | 7 | 6 | John Clark.....          | 1 | 0  | 0 |
| Jno. Irwin.....         | 15 | 0 | 0 | Andrew Cochran.....      | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| David Carr.....         |    | 7 | 6 | Alex. McMullan.....      |   | 15 | 0 |
| Jacob Carr.....         |    | 7 | 6 | Thomas Giles.....        |   | 7  | 6 |
| Gilbert Voorhes.....    |    | 7 | 6 | Robert Giles.....        |   | 7  | 6 |
| Wm. Montgomery, Jr..... | 3  | 0 | 0 | William Lemar.....       |   | 15 | 0 |
| James Henry.....        | 15 | 0 | 0 | William Moreland.....    | 1 | 2  | 6 |
| William Gray.....       |    | 7 | 6 | John Wheeler.....        |   | 15 | 0 |
| Asahel Fowler.....      |    | 7 | 6 | Levi Wheeler.....        |   | 7  | 6 |
| Benjamin Fowler.....    | 17 | 6 | 0 | Garret Vaucamp.....      |   | 7  | 6 |
| Robert Hemm.....        | 1  | 2 | 6 | John Ogden.....          |   | 7  | 6 |
| James Grimes.....       | 15 | 0 | 0 | Lemuel Wheeler.....      |   | 10 | 0 |
| Martin Todd.....        | 5  | 0 | 0 | David Goodman.....       |   | 1  | 2 |
| Peter Melick.....       |    | 7 | 6 | Joseph Rosberry, Jr..... | 1 | 10 | 0 |

Three other subscription papers remain, which read as follows: "We, the subscribers, do promise to pay or cause to be paid unto—who is appointed collector hereof by the members of the congregation of Mahoning the several sums annexed to our names in four quarterly payments; the first thereof on demand and the other three payments successively at three months each afterwards, for the purpose of supporting the preaching of the Gospel in this congregation.,  
 Witness our hands this first day of October, 1785."

These are endorsed "Subscription paper, Cap. Thos. Gaskins," "Robert McWilliams," "John Irwin," and by the footing it appears there were four other similar papers, now lost. The whole subscription amounts to £36. ss. 6g.

General Wm. Montgomery was a ruling elder in the Mahoning Presbyterian church till the day of his death. Though it is not certainly known, there seems to be but little doubt that he

was elected an elder at the organization of the church, which appears to have been in October, 1785.

In 1796 Jacob Gearhart and William Montgomery, ruling elders, were deputed by the congregation to join with Derry congregation in making a call to Rev. Mr. Woods, which he failed to accept.

This paper is dated March 25th, 1795. It fixes the proportion of salary to be paid by Mahoning at seventy-five pounds per annum. The following names are appended:

|                    |                      |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Joseph Biggers,    | George Caldwell,     | Daniel Montgomery, | Minne Gulick,        |
| Hugh Caldwell,     | John Jones,          | Robert Montgomery, | Andrew Cochran,      |
| Thomas Gaskins,    | William Colt,        | John Carr,         | Richard Robinson,    |
| James Stephenson,  | Jno. Montgomery,     | James Longhead,    | Jacob Gearhart, Jr., |
| William Donaldson, | Daniel Barton,       | Robert Campbell,   | Frederick Blue,      |
| John Emmet, Sen.,  | Christ. Campbell,    | Thomas Best,       | John Emmet, Jr.,     |
| Robert Donaldson,  | Alex. McMunnigal,    | James Consart,     | John Young,          |
| John Donaldson,    | Robert McWilliams,   | Gilbert Vorecz,    | Elias Harrison,      |
| Joseph Williams,   | Wm. Montgomery, jr., | James Curry,       | Isaac Woodruff,      |
| John Woodside,     | John Moore,          | Peter Blair,       | Stephen Hunt,        |
| Philip Young,      |                      | Albert Ammerman.   |                      |

Before Simon Snyder was elected, in 1808, the Hon. Samuel McClay, a Senator in Congress, and a leading Democrat, solicited General Wm. Montgomery's permission to bring his name before the public as a candidate for the office of Governor of the State. To which General Montgomery replied, that having had honors enough conferred on him by his fellow citizens, he had no desire to be placed in such an exalted and responsible position; besides, he had observed that when men were continued in places of public trust and grew old in them, they were apt to imagine that their services could not be dispensed with, and for himself he had long ago resolved that after attaining a certain age would not accept any office however strong the inducement, lest he should come to think the public could not do without him. As he had passed that age already he declined.

The late Mr. Joseph Cornelison well remembered old General Montgomery as he called him, to distinguish him from his son General Daniel Montgomery, and spoke with great admiration of his tact in dealing with contentious people, using his influence both as a man and a magistrate to settle disputes amicably and prevent litigation among neighbors; his kind words and good advice rarely failed to produce the desired end. All evil doers had a wholesome dread of being brought before him.

The old gentleman, said Mr. Cornelison, was both honored and feared by the young men, and that when he appeared amongst them all rollicking and boisterous behavior instantly ceased.

The boys were very fond of ball playing, and many a time they would neglect work for play—his sons with the rest of them—and would even in harvest time play during the noon spell, thus wasting the vigor needed for work in idle sport; and frequently he would come upon them in the midst of the game and with a shout of reproof scatter them instantly, but never a murmur was uttered by one of them at the interruption of their enjoyment.

Mr. George Sweney once told the writer that in 1814 he was present at a Fourth of July celebration in the grove near Danville when General Montgomery delivered an address, in the course of which he said, "there are those here present who will live to see this place surrounded by furnaces and forges. These hills about us are full of iron ore and it will not be many years till the iron interest here shall be the chief industry of a flourishing town," and, said Mr. Sweney, I have seen the prediction fulfilled.